

II. Claims 22-33, 40-45.

III. Claim 36.

As noted above, claims 22-33 and 40-45 of Group II as identified by the Examiner was elected, without traverse.

Omitted Drawings

A review of the file of the above-captioned application shows that Figures 2A-2D inclusive were inadvertently not submitted in the application as filed by a mailing on April 16, 1999 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10. This appears to be so notwithstanding an award of a filing date of April 16, 1999 to the application. No "Notice of Omitted Items" (MPEP 601.01(g)) was received by the Applicants.

In order to maintain the granted filing date of April 16, 1999, the application has been amended to delete from the specification all reference to the omitted Figures 2A, 2B, 2C and 2D and to renumber Figures 2E through 2J as Figures 2A-2F, and correspondingly amend references thereto in the specification.

The amendments submitted herein will maintain the April 16, 1999 filing date awarded to the application, pursuant to MPEP 601.01(g).

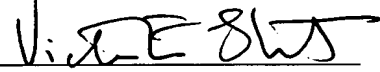
Related Application

On April 29, 1999 Applicants caused to be filed patent application Serial Number 09/301,626 ("the child application") as a continuation-in-part of (1) the above-captioned application Serial Number 09/293,216 ("the parent application"), and (2) of co-pending U.S. patent application Serial Number 09/071,663 ("the grandparent application"), filed May 1, 1998.

The child application (09/301,626) is identical to the above-captioned parent application (09/293,216) except for a few minor revisions to the specification and the fact that it contains Figures 2A-2D which were inadvertently omitted from the parent application. Otherwise, the specification, drawings and claims of the parent and child applications are identical. Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Examiner the fact that a restriction/election requirement was issued in the child application by Primary Examiner N.M. Nguyen (Art Unit 1754) and in the above-captioned parent application by Primary Examiner Hien Tran (Art Unit 1764). It thus appears that the

substantially identical parent (09/293,216) and child (09/301,626) applications have been assigned to different examiners within Art Unit 1754.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. E. Libert", written over a horizontal line.

Victor E. Libert

Registration No. 24,224

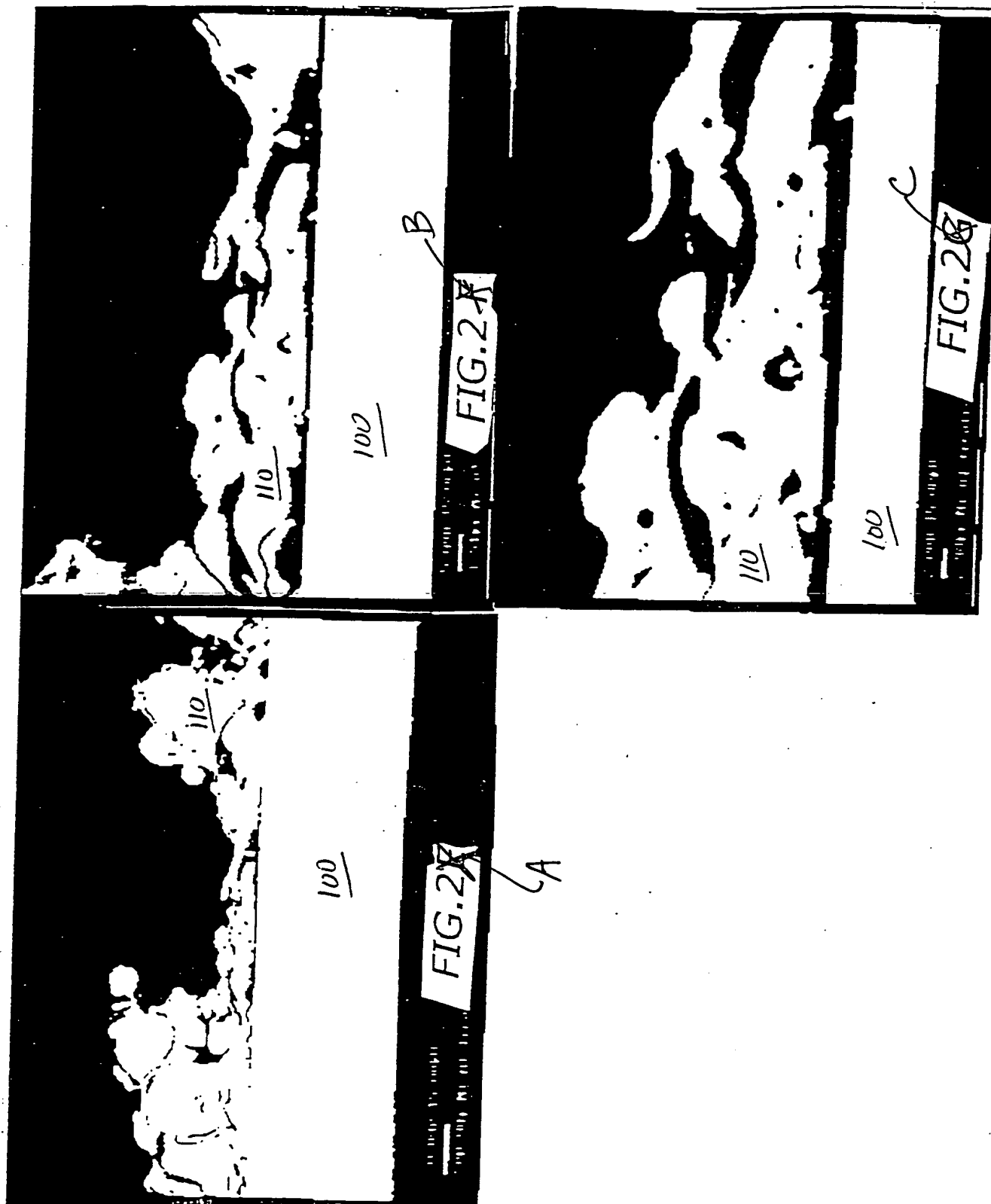
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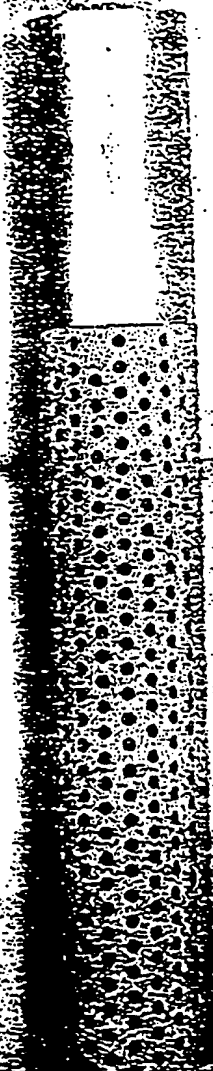


FIG. 2B

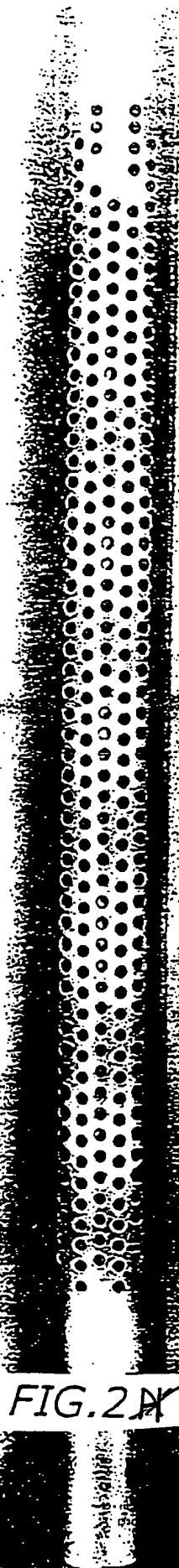


FIG. 2A

4339/4358A)
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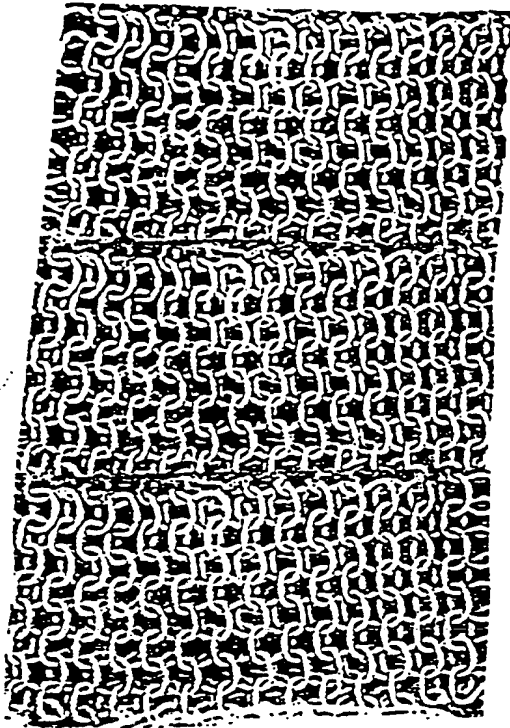


FIG. 2 ~~A~~^F

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